

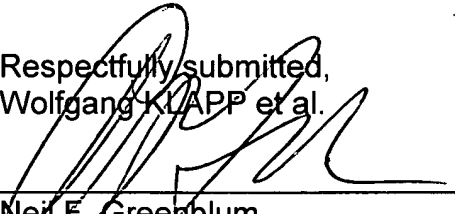
**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the instant amendment has been prepared to place the application more in conformance with idiomatic English and standard U.S. practice. In particular, claims 1-9 have been amended and claims 10-20 have been added. Applicants submit that the instant amendment has not been made for any reasons related to patentability such that no estoppel should be deemed to attach.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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